



State of California-Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Services**



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
Governor

June 1, 2007

CHDP Program Letter No.: 07-06

TO: ALL CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP)  
PROGRAM DIRECTORS, DEPUTY DIRECTORS, DENTAL STAFF, AND  
STATE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES (CMS) BRANCH AND  
REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

SUBJECT: NEW LEGISLATION REQUIRING KINDERGARTEN ORAL HEALTH  
ASSESSMENTS; CHDP DENTAL REFERRALS AT AGE ONE  
REMINDER; NEW DENTAL REFERRAL RESOURCE; CHDP PROVIDER  
INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 07-06

### **Background**

Within 90 days after entrance into the first grade, every child/family shall provide a certificate to the school documenting that within the prior 18 months the child has received the appropriate health screening and evaluation services, or submit a waiver exempting the child from this requirement.

CHDP requires a dental assessment during each CHDP health screening/evaluation. An annual referral to a dentist is recommended beginning at age one to establish a dental home. An annual referral is required at age three, if not begun earlier. If a dental problem is detected or suspected a dental referral is required, regardless of age.

### **New Legislation**

The Department of Education now administers existing law (California Education Code, Section 49452.8) which requires children to have their oral health assessed by a licensed dental professional (dentist or dental hygienist) by May 31, of their first year in public school at kindergarten or first grade. Dental check-ups that have occurred in the previous 12 months prior to school entry meet this requirement. Parents or caregivers may sign a waiver if they are unable to get a dental check-up for their child.

### **Effect on CHDP**

Local CHDP programs are encouraged to work with school nurses and families, when requested, in helping to achieve the newly required kindergarten dental check-up by a

licensed dental professional. An annual referral to a dentist is part of the CHDP health assessment. This dental visit can meet the new legislative requirement for those children entering school for the first time. Local CHDP programs should continue to provide a referral to a dentist when the routine dental referral box is checked, and complete a referral and follow-up when a dental problem is noted in the comments section of the PM160. CHDP can provide a list of dentists and local community dental clinics to schools and families that are willing to see children for their school entrance dental evaluation and help facilitate an on-going relationship between the schools and the providers and clinics.

To enhance local dental referral lists, CHDP programs may wish to contact the California Dental Association Foundation, [www.cdafoundation.org](http://www.cdafoundation.org), for information about a new statewide/regional program, the Pediatric Oral Health Access Project (POHAP). The contact person is Brittney Ryan, (800) 232-7645, extension 7645 or email, [Brittney.Ryan@cda.org](mailto:Brittney.Ryan@cda.org). Ms. Ryan can provide your county with the name of the local/regional coordinator for POHAP who will have a list of general dentists who have been trained to see younger children and have agreed to treat 20 children at no cost to the family. You may wish to recruit these dentists for your own referral lists.

It is recommended that local CHDP programs refer schools to either of two websites for more information on the new requirement: The California Dental Association, [www.cda.org](http://www.cda.org) has a FAQs section specifically for schools, information for parents, as well as the State-required forms in English, Spanish, Chinese, Hmong, Russian, and Vietnamese languages. Information on this new law is on the California Department of Education website, <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/oralhealth.asp>.

Please review and distribute the attached Provider Information Notice, without any changes, to providers in your local program area and complete and return the enclosed "Report of Distribution."

**Original Signed by Marian Dalsey M.D., M.P.H.**

Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H., Chief  
Children's Medical Services Branch

cc: Brittney Ryan  
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